

Lafayette
Suggested S. A. R. news release - CONFIDENTIAL

Nomination of Lafayette for the Hall of Fame has been unanimously endorsed by the Empire State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution it is announced by William S. Bennet, president. Lafayette was made an American citizen by New York and Maryland and one or more other States. Both native-born and naturalized citizens are now eligible for the American Pantheon. Under the early rules of election names of foreign-born Americans could not grace the ballot.

Lafayette claimed "as the proudest of his titles, that of an American citizen." History of Congress, 1803, page 583, states: "...the First Consul applied to Mr. Lafayette to come to this country as Minister. He replied: 'I am by birth a French citizen, by adoption a citizen of the United States. I have served in that country, and am so attached to its interest that I doubt if a case of difficulty should arise, whether I could do justice to my own; if I did, I am sure I should be suspected, and therefore I will not place myself in that delicate situation.'" If elected, it is expected that the French Government will wish to donate a new bust of General Lafayette for his niche on the uptown campus of New York University.

First quotation above is from History of Congress Jan. 1824, page 145.

JHS:JR.